

Paper Presentation

Community Culture Change: Magic and Science.

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3. Abstract

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Perspectives about long-term economic development strategies are being transformed in a number of rural Midwest towns through the *Community Builders* community development process. In collaboration with the Harrisdale Homestead and the Kettering Foundation, Global Horizons economic development consultants have implemented this initiative to engage and instruct new ways for citizens in smaller towns to reverse downward population trends in rural areas. This process teaches communities to identify, develop and transition new leaders, learn positive skills to solve public issues through deliberative dialogue, and build community entrepreneurship as a basis for economic development. *Community Builders* has engaged multiple communities to identify, become familiar with, recognize, and applaud the contributions of their numerous existing businesses in their county's communities, and is creating an entrepreneurial atmosphere where families want to live and work. The presentation will describe the three-year process, which has brought hope for the future to these rural areas, including the many successes that have taken place. Global Horizons is currently expanding these economic development and deliberative dialogue strategies to other counties as it evaluates this model for use in other regions. A model for youth-community-school engagement is also available.

4. Summary

Perspectives about long-term economic development strategies are being transformed in rural Midwest towns through the *Community Builders* community development process. In collaboration with the Harrisdale Homestead and the Kettering Foundation, Global Horizons economic development consultants have helped communities develop leaders, solve

public issues through deliberative dialogue, and build community entrepreneurship.

5. LCD projector